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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO   |   |    |   | <b>Complete If Known</b> |                        |
|   |   |    |   | Application Number       | 09/889,439-Conf. #2918 |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(Use as many sheets as necessary) |   |    |   | Filing Date              | September 17, 2001     |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Erwin Knieling         |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 1744                   |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | M. R. Chorbaji         |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number   | 30071/37530            |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |   |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                       |                          |   |                                |  |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |   |  |                                   |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |  | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |  |                                   |  |   |                |
| MRC                      | A                        | EP-0906763  |  | 04-07-1999                        | Considered abstract only                           |   | ✓              |
| MRC                      | B                        | CN-1203821  |  | 01-06-1999                        | Considered abstract only                           |   | ✓              |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 801.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Examiner<br>Signature | <i>M. R. Chorbaji</i> | Date<br>Considered | 05/02/2005 |
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